

PROJECT NAME: Great Salt Lake Institute

RECIPIENT: Westminster College

LOCATION: Salt Lake City, Utah

PURPOSE:

This request will to be used to support research initiatives for the purpose of exploring the Great Salt Lake, its resident microbial communities and to gain a better understanding of this unique environment and the factors that affect it. This project will promote academic research in the area of Great Salt Lake microbial biotechnology at Westminster and other Utah institutions of higher education and improve student learning and faculty development. It will also provide a catalyst for bringing together scientists at other state institutions of higher learning and establish the pre-eminence of Utah institutions in the study of this Utah resource and generate K-12 educational programs to highlight the significance of the microbial foundation of the Great Salt Lake. In addition, it will create partnerships with various industries for technology commercialization of discoveries. This venture will act as a nucleus that will encourage statewide participation from researchers at other institutions of higher education, state K-12 educators, and biotech industry. Specifically, the funds will be used to: 1) purchase the equipment necessary to conduct more sophisticated research in a more efficient manner; 2) develop storage facilities at the Lake to ensure that equipment is available when and where it is needed; 3) provide lab and classroom facilities on site for students of all ages; 4) establishing the Institute's office to be located on Westminster's campus.

AMOUNT: \$300,000